

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 L-03 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UK, VN, TW

SUBJ: BRITAIN AND DRV

1. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT
JUNE 25 TO SAY THAT LONDON WISHED US TO BE INFORMED
THAT THE BRITISH PROPOSED SHORTLY TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS
WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE AT PEKING LOOKING TOWARD ESTABLISH-
MENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL
LEVEL. BRITISH ASSUMED THE TALKS WOULD BECOME PUBLIC
KNOWLEDGE. THEY SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO
INTENTION TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG. THEY NOTED THAT MOST
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WEST EUROPEANS HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED DRV AND THAT WHILE

BRITISH HAD HELD OFF, FIRST BECAUSE OF DRV CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS, THEN TO AWAIT OUTCOME OF LATEST KISSINGER-THO TALKS, LONDON NOW FELT IT HAD LITTLE GROUNDS TO JUSTIFY NOT MOVING AHEAD. IF WE HAD STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED BRITISH MOVE, WE WERE INVITED TO MAKE THEM KNOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. ON JUNE 29 DEPTOFF REPLIED ORALLY TO BRITISH ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) WE APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

(B) WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GREATEST CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO INDUCE HANOI TO ESCHEW FURTHER MILITARY MEASURES AND CONVERSELY WE SHOULD AVOID ACTIONS THAT COULD

BE INTERPRETED AS CONDONING VIOLATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT.

(C) ALTHOUGH FIGHTING IS AT A REDUCED LEVEL IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, WE DO NOT YET HAVE RELIABLE EVIDENCE THAT HANOI IS COMPLYING WITH ALL MAJOR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PEACE ARRANGEMENTS, E.G. THAT IT HAS WITHDRAWN NVA FROM CAMBODIA AND LAOS. MOREOVER, DRV IS NOT COOPERATING ADEQUATELY IN ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION.

(D) WE STILL HOPE AND EXPECT FIGHTING CAN BE ENDED IN INDOCHINA AND REMAINING PROBLEMS DEALT WITH PEACEFULLY, BUT WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN HANOI IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THIS COURSE.

(E) WE ASKED THAT HGM TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FOREGOING FACTORS AS IT MOVES TOWARD DECISIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH DRV. WE ALSO REQUESTED BRITISH ASSISTANCE IN PERSUADING NORTH VIETNAMESE TO TAKE ROAD OF PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT NOW OPEN TO THEM.

3. FINALLY, DEPTOFF WELCOMED ASSURANCES THAT BRITISH WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH PRG. ROGERS

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